

## **CITY OF HAYWARD**

### **AGENDA REPORT**

AGENDA DATE 05/02/06

AGENDA ITEM 8

WORK SESSION ITEM \_\_\_\_\_

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Information Regarding the June 6th Election

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council accept this update related to the June 6, Municipal Election.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Even though the Hayward Municipal Election is local, our electorate voted to consolidate with the State Primary and thus, its conduct must be consistent and comply with both California State laws and Federal requirements.

##### What's Different?

Unlike previous elections in this County, when voters go to the polls on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, they will receive a paper ballot and asked to fill in ovals in contrast to electronic touch screen voting. The touch screen voting equipment that voters have used for the past five years do not comply with the new State law that requires a printer attachment so that the voter can verify his/her ballot prior to casting it. Alameda County was not able to purchase new voting equipment due to the delays in certification of qualified vendors by both Federal and State certification boards. The County's goal is to purchase the new voting equipment in time for the November General Election.

It is important to note that the counting of the ballots will be slow as all of the ballots for this County will be transported to a central ballot counting center. Every ballot cast in the County's 4,000 precincts will need to be hand-fed into optical scanners. Hayward will have approximately 100 precincts. The counting center, which is open to the public, will be in the County Records' building in Oakland.

In previous elections, the touch screen voting devices were equipped with tabulating computer cards that the precinct inspectors delivered for uploading at the main counting center. This type of precinct tabulation will not occur in June.

To assist in expediting the election results, voters are encouraged to take advantage of the absentee ballot process and vote by mail. By voting absentee, those ballots will be prepared for tabulation as soon as the polls close. It is anticipated that those results will be on the Registrar's website within a half hour of the close of the polls. Results can also be viewed on the [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org) website.

#### Last Day to Register to Vote

Monday, May 22 is the last day to register or re-register to vote for this election. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) federal law required the State of California to develop a statewide voter database, which has created some delays in voter registration. County Registrars of Voters must send voter registrations to Sacramento to be compared and cross checked with Social Security, DMV and other databases. An example of such a delay could be a person with a name change attempting to re-register without a current driver's license. The cross-check will generate a non-match and the affidavit has to be returned to the County election official who must contact the voter before it can be validated. This situation may increase the number of provisional ballots that will need to be verified before counted.

To comply with HAVA, that addresses the needs of the disabled, the Acting Registrar of Voters is planning on providing touch screen voting devices that will be available at six locations throughout Alameda County. This service addresses the needs of those who are not able to physically access polling places. Moreover, it will also provide opportunities for any Alameda County Voter to take advantage of this Early Voting program and allow voting on certified touch screen voting devices. Besides Hayward, the following cities will provide this service in the Office of the City Clerk: Berkeley, Fremont, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Leandro beginning Tuesday, May 30 through Election Day. The advantage is that Hayward residents, who work in Alameda County, could choose to vote early at anyone of these offices during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and on Election Day from 7 a.m. through the close of the polls at 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will also be accepted at those locations.

The Registrar of Voters Office will provide early voting services beginning May 8<sup>th</sup> through Election Day. It is located at 125 Fallon Street in Oakland. There will be weekend hours the last weekend before the election. For more information, the telephone number 510 272-6973.

All polling places will be open from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m. Voters can locate their polling location by logging onto the [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org) website and type in their address and the information will be provided as well as a link to a maps website.

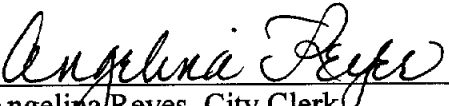
#### Volunteers are Needed

There is a need for volunteers to work as precinct workers as well as assist in other duties to complete the canvass. The Council is requested to invite and urge Hayward voters to get civically involved and volunteer.

Official Canvass

The Council is scheduled to consider certification of election results on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Prepared by:

  
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Approved by:

  
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